



Fenway Garden Society — Winter 2008 Newsletter



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New Board Elected

Members of Fenway Garden Society elected a new board of directors in the December 2, 2007 annual meeting at Morville House.

President Timothy Horn, former Treasurer, and 8-year center section gardener, is pushing financial security and the importance of universal enforcement of standards to preserve the park as a historic landmark. He wants to address the most dire and important challenges plaguing the gardens, including exterior fencing repairs, pipes, trees, and absentee gardeners.

Victoria Stock, in the

Boylston section, has been gardening for 11 years in the Fens and is the new Sr. VP of Administration.

Stock is focusing on the success and retention of new gardeners.

Joe Axelrod was elected VP of the Park. Gardening in the center section, Axelrod has pledged availability to all gardeners by providing his phone number and email address for anyone to contact him.

Axelrod outlines his goals in *Joe's Compost Corner* on page 3.

Richard Rogers has been

"We want to keep improving the gardener experience"

- Joe Axelrod

gardening in the Fens for 11 years, and currently tends a plot in the Boylston section.

Establishing the permanent financial security of the garden by expanding giving, and establishing an endowment are among Rogers' goals for 2008.

Andrew (Skip) Naumnik, Treasurer, in the Boylston section said, "There are creative ways to raise money like asking your employer for matching funds, or nominating the FGS for a one-time donation from your company."



Buy Seeds Now - Start Growing Indoors

Order your seeds from a catalog or online in February.

Even if the ground is frozen outside, you can get a jump start on the gardening season by planting your seeds indoors and keeping them in a warm window until

good weather returns when you can plant them in your garden.



Winter is the time to make garden plans for the coming year.

Board Members Donate \$2,000 Out-of-Pocket

The new Board of Directors, in addition to donating their services this year, has committed to a combined \$2,000 cash donation in a concrete show of support.

The board asks gardeners to join them by making a \$30 increased donation over what you donated to the FGS in 2007.

Your donation is tax deductible as allowed by law now that we are a charitable organization AND you get a free FGS T-shirt while they last.

This year the FGS faces serious financial challenges.

The park needs a new perimeter fence, plumbing repairs, tree maintenance and removal.

Currently, almost all money for these needs comes from directly from gardener's donations.



The corner fence post, and Fenway Garden Society sign shown rotted and snapped at the base.



Member Dues and Renewal Deadline ... with Conditions

Gardener renewal notices were mailed out the third week in January.

This year, notices look different. Complete garden inspections were performed and everyone who has a garden 'violation' received this merged into the renewal application.

This is part of the universal standards enforcement policy of the new board. Strict attention must be paid to certain key issues that interfere with the safety of the garden as a whole.

In the past, enforcement was not universally applied, but the new board has vowed to bring the park into compliance.

Top 3 Violations Cited:

1. **Trees or shrubs over 5'**
2. **Garden furniture wrong color—must be green/black or brown.**
3. **Insecure fence or gate.**

Make sure you are in compliance early.

See the calendar on the back page for garden inspections and judging dates.

Matching Gift Reminder

Since the Fenway Garden Society has now attained 501(c)(3) status, please note that any donations you make are eligible for corporate matching.

If your company has a corporate matching gift plan, we URGE you to please maximize your donation and submit all the necessary forms to your employer so that we may receive additional funding.

You will receive an acknowledgement letter from FGS for your donation, but if your company's matching gift program requires additional documentation, please let us know so that we may supply what is needed.





Massachusetts Historical Society
1154 Boylston Street

—Website Photo

The Garden Society archives consist of 4 or 5 cardboard file boxes but contain much of the valuable history of the formation of the garden society and

Invasive plants

Controlling invasive plants is a top priority for all gardeners. Making sure your space is free of these common invasive plants will make gardening easier and protect the environment.

Introducing plants that do not belong in a particular environment may be a fun way to add pizzazz to your garden, but be mindful of

Goodbye to Jimmy ‘the Greek’

James Papalambros, or “Jimmy the Greek” as most people knew him at the garden, died on January 6, 2008.

“Jimmy was a veteran gardener when I turned up 11 years ago. He would give me bushels of vegetables over the course of the summer,” said gardener Victoria Stock, remembering him.

“His generosity extended to all gardeners, giving us

Historical Society is interested in FGS Archives

records of its past members.

The Massachusetts Historical Society has expressed interest in professionally sorting, scanning and preserving these records officially for research.

If any member has any official records or written documentation on the garden society, please contact Victoria Stock through the garden phone number at 617-267-6650 or see her at her garden.

[plot A-31]

what you are doing.

Do not cultivate white spreading roses. Do not make your own weeping willow tree. Be sure to weed out agrapodia – morning glories, and purple loostrife. Be on top of: wisteria, blackberries, lily of the valley, and pacasandra. Be sure to prune Forsythia, Rose Hedge, or any hedge that could obstruct the view into your garden.

Joe’s Compost Corner—By Joe Axelrod

Greetings! I am happy to be your VP of the Park and look forward to a great 2008 gardening season. I plan to be very accessible, and as proof of that, here are my contact points: 617-437-8488, rackcliffe1@earthlink.net and Plots X35/W12-13. Plus I need the exercise so I’ll be walking around a lot. Quick tidbits on what to expect from my end this year:

New and improved! Much is planned for 2008

- Revisions to the renewal application particularly to improve communications, give better, equitable guidance around Guidelines and Regulations compliance, and bolster volunteerism.
- Improved new gardener application and welcome package to assess potential new gardener skills/commitment, present an accurate picture of gardening challenges and get new gardeners up to speed fast. Check it out on our website.
- Emphasis on securing FGS’ long-term financial viability including handling capital projects like water system and perimeter fencing upgrades and replacement through the power of fund-raising.

It’s not too early to think about Spring. Pre-season tips:

- Fight Springtime mud and inaccessibility plus realize New Year resolutions about losing weight. When the paths are frozen but clear of snow is a wonderful time to wood chip paths. Chips and wheel barrows are available
- Guard your plot. Fixing broken in fences and gates is needed year around. Lock all gates.
- Plan for an early trimming. Trees and shrubs over 5’ can be safely pruned when the worst of the cold is over but before growing starts.



Jimmy at Fens Fest 2004



Fenway Garden Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 230038
Boston, MA 02123

Winter Newsletter

Your current board members for 2008 are:

President:

Timothy Horn

Senior VP of Administration:

Victoria Stock

**VP of Communications and
Development:** Richard Rogers

Treasurer:

Andrew (Skip) Naumnik

Vice President of the Park:

Joe Axelrod



The Fenway Garden Society is a non-profit organization that oversees the Fenway Victory Gardens. We are located on 7 acres in the part of the Emerald Necklace Known as the Fens. We have approximately 300 members gardening 500 garden plots, and are the oldest remaining Victory Garden in the country. The Fenway Victory Garden Newsletter is aimed to keep our garden community up to date on the latest happenings at The Fenway Garden Society and surrounding community.

Please send comments, suggestions or submissions c/o Richard Rogers.

Calendar for 2008

March

- 15-Dues and Renewal Deadline
- 20- Board Meeting
- 22- 33rd Annual BNAN Gardeners Gathering 11-4:30 at Northeastern University Curry Student Center.

Third Week—New England Spring Flower Show at the Bay-side Expo Center.

28-Non-renewal move-out deadline

April

- 1—New Garden Assignments begin.
- 6—All Garden Clean-up #1
- 17- Board Meeting
- 20-(Week of) Soil Delivery
- 21-Spring Newsletter
- Last Week-Garden Inspections

May

- 4-All Garden Meeting**
- 20 Garden Judging
- 22 Board Meeting
- Last Week-Garden Inspections

June

- 7—All Garden Clean-up #2
- 20-Garden Judging
- 21—Summer Newsletter
- 26- Board Meeting
- 29-Fens Fest Planning Meeting
- Last Week-Garden Inspections

July

- 20-Garden Judging
- 26-Fens Fest Planning Meeting
- 24—Board Meeting
- Last Week-Garden Inspections

August

- 10—All Garden Clean-up #3
- 20-Garden Judging
- 21- Board Meeting
- 23-Fens Fest Planning Meeting
- 31—Fall Newsletter

September

- 20-Fens Fest** (Rain Date 21)
- 21—Garden Inspections
- 25- Board Meeting

October

- 11- All Garden Clean-up #4
- 12—Final Garden Inspections
- 23—Board Meeting

November

- 20- Board Meeting

December

- 6—All Garden Meeting**

January

- 3-First Board Meeting
- 31-Winter Newsletter

February

- 28-Board Meeting and committee formations
- 29-Garden renewals due

NOTE: All Fens Fest Planning Meetings are scheduled for 10:30 a.m.